



**First United
Methodist
Church**

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Paul E. Frederiksen, Pastor

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United Methodist News

December 2015

The 2015 Sunday School Christmas Program will be during worship (10:30 am) on Sunday morning, December 20. Please join us for the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ, classic Christmas Carols and an overdose of cuteness. This should free up an evening to enjoy caroling, or to have a family get together! Here's to a blessed holiday filled with the love of Christ and the joy of new hope!!



Gail Fleming
Children's Ministries

December Events

Dec. 4 — Kids Night In/Parents Night Out

Dec. 12 — Shared Blessings

Dec. 13 — KFC Christmas Pageant at Cedar Manor Dominoes

Dec. 14 — Newsletter Articles Due

Dec. 20 — Sunday School Christmas Program (during worship)
Service of Long Shadows
Christmas Caroling

Dec. 22 — Meeting of the Holy Folders
Christmas Worship @ Prairie Hills

Dec. 24 — Shared Blessings

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Service @ 3:30 and 10:00 pm

Dec. 25 — CHRISTMAS

Please get your Newsletter articles in to the office as soon as possible this month or no later than December 14th.

The Holy Folders will meet on Tuesday,

Dec. 22 @ 8:00 am.

Thanks!

Karis



Band musicians wanted to participate in the 3:30 pm December 24th service. Please contact the church office if you want to participate. Dusty Johnson will lead the ensemble. [Pastor's note: We may even consider banned musicians for this band!]



Cedar Manor asked if our church would present a **Christmas program** for their residents this year, so, of course, I said, "Yes!" This is a great opportunity for our church to "branch out" in the community! It is scheduled for **Sunday, December 13th at 3:30**. (This is our usual time for Kids for Christ.) Much help and participation will be needed!! We will need people of all ages to help plan, sing, read, dress-up for a pageant, help with costuming, drive and offer holiday cheer. This is one event that is guaranteed to fill your heart with Christmas spirit! Please contact Denise Cartwright (319-430-6172) to sign up or for more information.

Parents Night Out/Kids Night In December 4

We are planning a "Parents Night Out/Kids Night In" event on Friday, December 4th, from 6:00-9:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Please register kids by **Wednesday, December 2nd** at noon. Kids are asked to bring a sack supper. There will be plenty of fun activities offered to keep kids busy. Parents are encouraged to enjoy the evening!

In order to offer this event, we need to have enough youth and adult volunteers to help out. If you are willing to hang out with the kids at the church and give parents a break, please contact the church office or Denise Cartwright by Wednesday, December 2nd.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Paul's Ponderings

Stirring your memories from last year's study of THE STORY, the Assyrians wiped out the northern kingdom of Samaria/Israel in 722 BC. But as it is with kingdoms, the Assyrian's power waned and the Babylonians became the power in the area, taking over and expanding the former Assyrian Empire. It's the Babylonians who then wanted the [southern] territory of Judah, including Jerusalem. They were, eventually, successful.

One of their most effective means of control was to remove, exile, to various parts of their Empire the leadership of conquered territories. That's where Lamentations and Jeremiah and writings like Psalm 137 come in. But, eventually, the Babylonian Empire folded and the Persians came to influence, allowing the subjugated people to return home. Nehemiah wrote of surviving the exile and putting things back in order:

"They said to me, 'Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.' When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."

Nehemiah 1:3-4

In our country now, the work of making disciples is often a ministry of "welcoming home exiles." Like the people of Judah returning to find their holy city wrecked, many people are feeling spiritually demolished. For many and various reasons, many people are convinced they would never enter a sanctuary again. Their smoldering ruin faith-life is often a testament to the Church's failure to love unconditionally.

Jane and I plan to be out of town Dec. 25 – Jan. 2. Pastors have been asked, and have consented, to being on-call. Karis will be in the office a couple mornings that week. Call her or one of the Lay Leaders, Bob Cummins or Kathy Houstman, and they will make contact with the on-call clergy.

If they somehow or in some circumstance find the courage to cross the threshold, the bravery they show in placing the first brick back into that broken wall leads us all, like Nehemiah, into prayer and tears.

Your church has made efforts to welcome, not only the 'exile' but also the stranger. We have sought to be present in the community. Some ways we seek to 'branch out' are by serving refreshments at the Tri-County Community Band concert; participation in the 4th of July parade; at Trunk or Treat; put articles in the paper; host Grief Group; encourage GIGs and groups to extend love to community servants from the school to the fire station; and, of course, hosting Shared Blessings.

We do each of those things, praying that a few people may hear, in our chants, silliness, food or smiles the Spirit singing a faint but persistent song of home.

Christmas is a good time to extend ourselves, one person at a time, to return 'home' or come for the first time. It is our responsibility then to be sure they know a true welcome. There can be no signs saying "No Vacancy" among us. The world is full of those.

Right now, think of one person you can bring to a service of worship this Advent/Christmas season. Who needs to hear of the Savior who comes to bring love, hope, joy and peace before we even know we need it?!

Thank you for carrying the Light of Christ into the world — even if some folks haven't seen it; and don't believe it.

Pastor Paul



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**Newsletter articles are due
Mon., December 14th.**

**Meeting of the Holy Folders is
Tues., December 22nd.**

Missions

Shared Blessings Meal – 2016 Sign-up

Shared Blessings meals are served on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays each month from 11:00-Noon. If you are interested in helping to cook, serve & clean-up, drive bus, or deliver meals, the 2016 sign-up sheets are available now in the Gathering Place. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Carmen Hoffman or the church office.

Thanksgiving Ingathering

We reached our goal of putting together exactly 120 kits for the Thanksgiving Ingathering on November 7th. Thank you!

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering will be used to pay our unfunded apportionments which empower the ministry of not only this church but the Church around the world. You may use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or indicate “Christmas” on the memo line of your check. If you receive the newsletter via email, your offering envelopes will be at the back of the sanctuary.

Once our apportionments are fully funded, any remaining will be applied to the church’s Benevolence Fund, which is used for assisting people in Cedar County with anything from utilities to food assistance to transportation costs. Your offering may be given any time in December. May Jesus Christ be Praised!

Angel Tree



Our church often receives requests for assistance throughout the year. To supplement the benevolence fund and assist numerous individuals and families this Christmas and into 2016, we are asking you to purchase gift cards/certificates. We are also in the process of identifying families with children needing assistance and will hang tags with their specific gift requests. Please consider your blessings and help as you’re able.

Here’s all you do...

1. Select ornament(s) for **gift cards(s) or requested gifts** you’d like to purchase off the Angel Trees located in the dining room or the Gathering Place. For gift cards, you purchase the requested gift cards for the amount you’d like to give, put the gift card in an envelope, write the amount of the card on the envelope and then attach it to the ornament. For requested gifts, please wrap the gift, attach the receipt to the ornament, and attach the ornament to the gift. Please only buy the number of items requested on the tag. We try to make sure each child gets about the same number of gifts.
2. If you’d prefer to donate **money**, write “Angel Tree” in the memo line of your check and put it in the offering plate.
3. **Please return any gifts or financial contributions for the Angel Tree family to the church office by Sunday, Dec 13. Gift cards may be returned as late as Christmas Eve.**

Thank you for sharing God’s love and helping to make Christmas brighter for our friends, neighbors and strangers!

Prairie Hills is hosting monthly programs by Mercedes Pitzer from the Alzheimer’s Association. Each of the programs begins at 6 pm. This is a free program, offered to the community. It will be helpful for anyone who has known, currently knows and/or will ever know someone with dementia!

December 7	“The Basics”
January 4	“Know the 10 Signs”
February 1	“Effective Communication Strategies”
March 7	“Dementia Conversations”
April 4	“Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors”
May 2	“Legal and Financial Planning”

Do you know someone for whom this would be helpful but needs encouragement? Offer to go with.

Financial Peace University

A great way to start off 2016 is to get your personal/family finances in order. If enough interest is expressed, we will be offering the Financial Peace University class on **Thursdays beginning January 7 through March 3 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** It's open to anyone in the community so if you know of anyone who'd benefit from taking the class, please encourage them to sign up. **We need at least 5-6 families to sign up for the class to be held.**

Financial Peace University (F.P.U.), created by Dave Ramsey, now the only 9-week biblically-based class that trains people to manage their financial resources. Financial Peace University helps people dump their debt, get control of their money, and learn new behaviors around money that are founded on commitment and accountability. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 91 days after beginning FPU and is completely out of debt, except for the mortgage, in 18 to 24 months.

Financial Peace University is entertaining and highly effective in helping people to find financial peace. The 9-week DVD video series taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey includes small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. The class length is an hour and a half – one hour for the DVD lesson and a half hour for small group discussion. Topics covered include savings, debt, credit cards, insurance, investments, planning for retirement and college, generous giving, etc.

If you are interested in learning more, attend a short preview session after worship (at 11:40 a.m.) Sunday, December 13.

The cost for a FPU Membership Kit is \$93 for each family unit. What a great Christmas gift to give yourself! The Membership Kit includes Dave Ramsey's book, Financial Peace Revisited, an FPU workbook, audio CD library, CD-ROMs, and variety of financial planning tools.

To sign up for this life-changing program, registration forms are available in the church office. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, December 30.** Registration forms, along with a \$93 check for an FPU Membership Kit, must be turned into the church office by this date. Make checks payable to "1st UMC" with "FPU" written on the memo line. For additional information, contact Jane Moen or Pastor Paul.

Delivering Christmas Cards

We need volunteers to deliver Christmas cards to those who don't get out and about much anymore. Cards will be ready to pick up after worship on Sunday, December 6 during fellowship coffee. Cards just need to be delivered at your convenience before Christmas Day. We have between 55-60 people on our list, so any help you're able to provide is appreciated. If you haven't received visits through Caring Ministries and you'd like to be included, please contact the church office. Thanks!

Christmas Cookie and Candy Donations Needed

As you do baking for the holidays, consider donating 2-3 dozen cookies or candies to the church. With the additional events and opportunities for hospitality in December, it's helpful to have a supply of cookies or others snacks on hand. We plan to use the cookies and candies for events such as the Caroling with the homebound (Dec 20), fellowship time after the Long Shadows service (Dec 20), and Christmas Eve services (Dec 24). Donations are needed on the dates listed above. Please bring your donations to the church kitchen and label as "December treats". Thank You!

Christmas Caroling and Soup

We'll be Christmas caroling Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. We will carol at Cedar Manor, Prairie Hills and at individual's homes in Tipton. Meet at the church and wear warm clothing. We'll return to the church for supper after we're done caroling around 7:00 p.m. Crock pots of soup, relishes, cheese, crackers, and beverage are needed. Please sign up for what food you'll bring ahead of time in the breeze-way. If you know of someone who doesn't have a church home, this is a perfect time to invite them to our church. Everyone welcome!!



**Sunday, December 13th
2:30 to 4:30**

All ages are welcome!

We will be presenting a Christmas program at Cedar Manor, including a Christmas pageant

Youth Ministry THANKS YOU for providing the quart canning jars for Dec. 2 meeting.

Calling all HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and 2016-17 COLLEGE & SEMINARY STUDENTS:
Make your Christmas break profitable! Apply for a **Carroll Mitchell scholarship**. The deadline is mid-March 2016.

There are two versions of scholarships awarded as follows:

- 1) to someone who has demonstrated a commitment to working in the ministry, Christian education, mission training, etc.; (This does not have to be in a “seminary” setting!)
- 2) to students attending an accredited 2 or 4-year college or technical school. Applicants of all ages and levels beyond high school shall be considered but first year post high school will be given preference [for this undergrad scholarship.] Applicants must disclose a realistic financial plan; and must be a member or active participant of 1st UMC-Tipton.

Applications are available at www.iumf.org; go to Other Scholarships; scroll down to Carroll Mitchell. If you have questions contact Pastor Paul.

There are other scholarships listed at the website. Read the qualification guidelines – you may be eligible!



SERVICE OF LONG SHADOWS

Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Refreshments and fellowship are an important part of this event. If you'd like to help provide hospitality, please contact Pastor Paul. (“Hospitality” involves serving hot cider/coffee and snack-stuff which is already provided.)

Hosted by First United Methodist Church
607 Lynn St.; Tipton 563-886-2331
Community welcome. Invite/bring friends!

Tipton Community Soup Supper is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12 from 4 to 8:00 pm at St. Mary's Hall. Any profits will be divided three ways:

1. The Community Food Pantry hosted by Calvary Foursquare Church;
2. Tipton Ministerial Association for the ‘assistance fund’;
3. The Backpack program coordinated by Trinity Lutheran.

Mike Boyle, coordinator of the Soup Supper, is asking each church to provide 4–6 volunteers to work. 6 people are needed for each shift, 3:30 to 6 and 5:30 to 8 pm. They also need soup: 3+ roasters of Chili; 3+ roasters of Chicken Noodle. Desserts, cookies, bars or cakes can be donated. Sandwiches (400!!) and relish trays are also part of the meal. SO, a lot of work goes into this event. If you would like to coordinate the participation of 1st UMC, contact the church office ASAP. Or, if you'd like to volunteer directly through Mike Boyle, you can contact him at 563-272-8564 or mike.boyle@ia.usda.gov. Judy Archer is coordinating this event with Mike. [WOW!!]

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Of all the great, traditional Christmas carols, Charles Wesley's “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” is certainly the finest theological statement of what Christmas means:

*Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*



As your church staff, our task is to help you proclaim to the world in word and deed, “Glory to the newborn King... God and sinners reconciled!” Thank you for trusting us and allowing us to assist your witness to Jesus Christ.

Dee Wallace
Don Griffith
Jamie Bahr

Denise Cartwright
Sylvia Gould
Sam Semontan

Alice Ann Gallagher
Karis Horstmann
Paul Frederiksen

Birthdays and Anniversaries (Members and Constituents)

- 1 – Phillip Hargrave, Donald Kallenberger, Kinley Williams, Red & Ferris Davis
- 2 – Madelynn Peters
- 3 – Abby Cummins-Vanscoy
- 5 – Mike Eisele, Teri Ford
- 6 – Courtney Klouda, Morgan Lanning
- 7 – Amanda Paul
- 8 – Gordon Esbeck
- 9 – Ellie Lieser, Mark Lukemyres
- 10 – Cassidy Eicher, Christopher McKinney, Kay Miller, Jim Shontz
- 11 – Jim & Vivian Shontz
- 12 – Henry Wiskus, Ken & Deb McKay
- 13 – Nancy Burroughs
- 14 – Mason Griebel, Dawson Mente, Judy Ohrt, Colbie Schultz, Corbey & Angela Swick
- 15 – Adam Calonder, Bobbie Lieser
- 17 – Kris Kuehl, Dustin Morden
- 18 – Jim Jorgensen, Keaton Schultz, Caden Schultz, Nathen & Kim Anderson
- 19 – Lonnie Krenz, Griffin Ormsby
- 20 – Drew Oberfrank, Jada Schmidt, Josie Janie Marie Slach
- 21 – Steven Eiler, Derek Nebergall, Lea Stonebraker
- 23 – Cameron Wallick
- 24 – Scott Anderson, Koby Johnston
- 25 – Jesus, Allan Baird, Ron Burroughs, Todd Swick
- 26 – Red Davis, Greg Royer, Ryne Schroeder,
- 27 – Corina Lanning, Judy Rouse
- 28 – Tucker Ormsby
- 29 – Marjorie Stonerook
- 30 – Jenny Boldt, Carly Paustian, Mike & Connie Semotan
- 31 – Lisa Allen, Noah Johnson, Jen Royer, Irene Wood

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)

Member News

Ron and Sandy Moreland, now living at 200 E. Market St. Apt. C2; Lisbon, 52253, have transferred their membership to the Lisbon UMC.

Kingston Matthew Person, son of Camille and Travis, both of Madison, was baptized November 8. God's grace and peace be with all of these people on their journey.

LEADERSHIP CALENDAR 2016

January 10 **Commissioning of Leaders** at worship **all-church potluck** beverages, table service provided **LEADER ORIENTATION** from 12:40 to 2:00 p.m.

January 13, 7:30 p.m.: Leadership Council

Upcoming LAY SERVANT TRAININGS in the East Central District

February 12 and 13, 2016 – Basic training will be held at DeWitt, First UM Church

February 13 and 27, 2016 – Advanced training will be held at DeWitt, First UM Church

May 13 and 14, 2016 – Basic training will be held at Cedar Rapids, Salem UM Church

May 13 and 14, 2-16 – Advanced training will be held at Cedar Rapids, Salem UM Church

Details and registration forms will be available soon. For now mark your calendar.

Late-breaking news: former Pastor Gene (Doris) Miller celebrated his 85th birthday Nov. 19. (2218 Spring Ct; Davenport, IA 52803)



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*





United Methodist Women

December Circle Meetings

Abigail — Wed., Dec. 16th at 8:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sylvia Ferguson, Co-Hostess: Barb Rickard,
Devotions: Becky Young, Program: Berrie Glick

Mary Martha — Fri., Dec. 11th at 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Lois Salmonson, Co-Hostess: Lorna Muller,
Devotions & Program: Lois Salmonson

Priscilla — Thurs., Dec. 17th at 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sandy Childs, Co-Hostess:
Devotions: Leanne Boots, Program:

Iowa Wesleyan University

Samantha Shepard works through [Americorps Vista](#) in the Office of Student Development at [Iowa Wesleyan University](#) to coordinate service learning and civil engagement projects between faculty, students, and community partners.

As a student she took a class trip to Haiti, where she encountered a tiny baby girl named Sophie who was fighting for each breath she took in a children’s hospital. “I reached out for her hand, and as our fingers touched, her eyes began to open. All at once, I felt both her pain and her hope.”

After many years of searching, she says, “that trip was the first time I felt God’s presence.” A friend invited her to a Bible study and then to church. “God placed her there for me to have someone to look up to, to question, to confide in.”

Gradually, she noticed changes in her life as she explored the Word, thanked Jesus every day, and asked the Holy Spirit to help her “live like I should.” Surrounded by supportive peers, she felt ready for her next step. She asked Ron Bupp, the director of campus ministry at the university, to baptize her last February. She wanted to “show that I have committed my life completely to Jesus.”

The Iowa Conference invested \$29,000 in **apportionment gifts from the local churches** of Iowa toward Iowa Wesleyan University last year.



LITTLE FRIENDS PRESCHOOL is rolling along The Iowa Department of Human Services did their surprise licensing visit the 2nd week of November and have now given us full licensure. We had opened under a provisional license; standard procedure for a ‘new’ operation. Congratulations to director/Teacher Sam Semotan and the Little Friends Board, consisting of Jen Hertert, Jess Goodenow, Kim Walter and Pastor Paul.

One item that came up during the licensing interview was the issue of a refrigerator. We have the one in room 111. LFP no longer uses that room. It was suggested we have a small “dorm-size” refrigerator in room 106. Does your family happen to have a dorm-size ‘frig you no longer need?? We’d be happy to take it off your hands; give you some bucks for it; and/or provide a statement of donation for your taxes. Talk to Sam Semotan or Pastor Paul.



Community Soup Supper

Sat. Dec. 12, 2015

St. Mary’s Hall, 209 Mulberry Street

Serving from 4-8 pm

Chicken Noodle, Chili and Potato soups

Hot Roasted Turkey & Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

Assorted Relish, Dessert, Milk, Tea or Coffee

\$7.00 & \$5.00 (5-12 years)

Just like last year and the year before and the year before, Thanksgiving happens. Then, just like in previous years, we go out on “Black Friday” and help stores get ‘into the black!’ The next Sunday we start lighting Advent candles, knowing full-well that Christmas will be here quicker than we’ll be ready. All of that is a routine; dependable and consistent. Like sunrise and sunset.

Yup, just like last year and the years before, here we are, toward the end of yet another good year in the life of 1st UMC of Tipton. And, like every year in the memorable past, all our bills are paid for ministry costs close-to-home. But, we’ve not yet supported hundreds of ministries around the world through what the UM Church calls apportionments. [Could be called “a-portion-ment for me!”] From campus ministries to chaplaincy positions to emerging ministries from Cedar Rapids to as far away as Africa and around the globe, there are people counting on you and me to give support to their ministry.

Nearly every month in the newsletter we feature a ministry that counts on us to lend support. I hope you’ve prayed for those ministries as you’ve considered your offering. God is doing amazing things in the world. You and I get to help!

Yes, that means our apportionment ‘bill’ is currently around \$27,000. This is pretty much the amount due the first of December every year, so it’s not insurmountable. You (God??!!) have come through in the past and your leadership trusts you’ll do so once again. On their behalf, I’ll say “thank you” but even more than that, I pray that you will be blessed as you give with the same self-less intent that God gives to you and to the world.

Our Fall Stewardship emphasis had the mantra “NEW CHURCH FOR NEW GENERATIONS.” I am excited that the Tipton UMC has such a strong tradition. But I am equally excited that we have so much leadership among newer, younger, energetic, impassioned and inspired participants. It is difficult to place emphasis on spiritual growth when food, shelter, utilities and transportation take such energy to fulfill. But I implore you, “new generations,” to take worship and spiritual work out of the “discretionary” basket and instead place it in the “mandatory” side of your calendar and priorities. Do not place your life-values on things of this world, things that rust or moth will consume; things that get old and out-dated; things that depreciate faster than the sun travels across the sky.

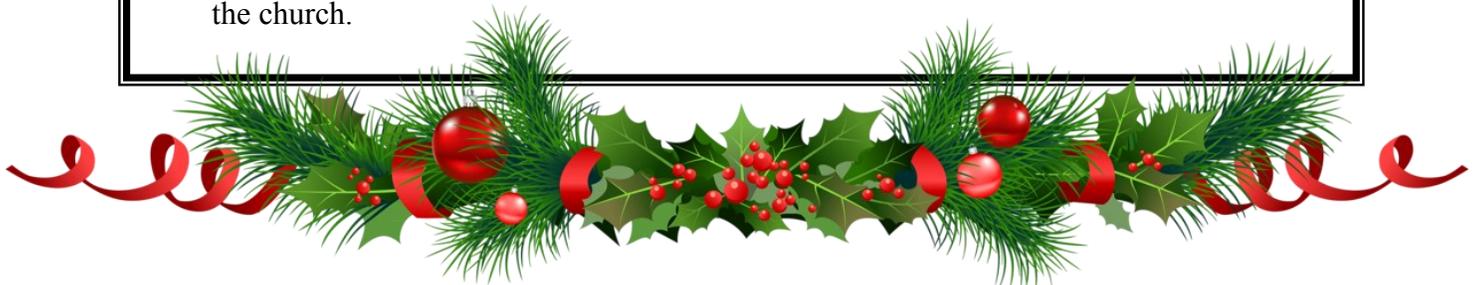
Yes, I am asking you to consider your commitment to Jesus Christ with new eyes as we cascade toward Christmas! Jesus wants the whole you, not only what’s comfortable or convenient. Our ritual says it this way, that Jesus wants our

Prayers Presence Gifts Service & Witness.

Don’t cheat on the most important relationship you have!

Here’s what NORMAL looks like!

- ◆ 50% of all church financial offerings in the United States happen from October through December.
- ◆ Only 10 to 25% of the membership in any ‘average’ Christian congregation in America consistently contribute to support the congregation. (Keep in mind less than half of the population is even ‘connected to’ a church!)
- ◆ Of those who contribute, the average total contribution is 2.5% of their income.
- ◆ During the Great Depression most Christians gave [an average of] 3.3% of income to the church.



Worship in December

In the world today it may be more difficult than ever before in most people's lives to observe Christmas while being true to the angels' commands to "be not afraid." In Afghanistan, is it possible to "be not afraid" while celebrating the birth of Christ? In Europe, flooded by refugees, "be not afraid?" How 'bout in Iowa, can we "be not afraid?"

Dec. 6 Communion; 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "Frantic . . . For a Reason!"

Bible: Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6

Music: Keyboards and Chancel Choir

Dec. 13 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "Good Reasons to Avoid Church Before Christmas"

Bible: Luke 3:7-18

Music: Christian Chaos, Choir Kids

Dec. 20 4th Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Children's Christmas Program!

Bible: Read the birth narrative in Luke!!

Music: Chancel Choir, Keyboards

2:00 pm: Service of Long Shadows (Gathering Place)

5:00 pm: Christmas Caroling throughout the community; soup to follow

Dec. 22 Christmas Worship with the residents at Prairie Hills Assisted Living!! Bring your voices, readings, instruments and let's have a great time!

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship

3:30 pm: Family Celebration, music new and old; instrumental band (this service includes candle-light or 'light-sticks' for children)

10:00 pm: "Traditional" Christmas Eve with carols, communion and candles.

Following both services you are invited to a time of fellowship in the Gathering Place around cookies, snacks and hot cider.

Dec. 27 1st Sunday of Christmas

Music: Chaos and Carols

It would be great to have 'specials' for this service.

Prayers

Hospitalized/Procedures:

Healing: Joanne Beers, Jessica Brown (dau. of Patti & Phil Seydel), Joe Cheshareck (G.Fleming's bro-in-law), Stephanie Coppess, Darlene (Marjorie Stonerook's sister), Jerry Ferguson, Donna Gault, Jean Heil (Brian's mom), Arlene Hein, Dean Hoffman (Kent's dad), Linda Huff (M. Stonebraker's mom), Rex Idlewine, Al Mart (son of Clarence UMC pastor); Ron Martin, Larry Maxwell, Mark McKay (Ken's bro), Jeff McKinney, Grace Nichols (J.Comstock's mom), Warren Nielson (L&K Houstman's bro-in-law), Ray Penningroth (M. Stonerook's bro); Carol Ruedy (Michelle Smith's mom), Jim Shontz, Heather Streffling, Gary Taylor, Jim Thiele (L. Salmonson's bro), Keith Wood, and others under care or treatment.

Prayers for those in Life Transitions:

Persons/people persecuted for religious convictions.
Persons uprooted due to "natural" and/or "human" disaster; and those who are called to help.
Families struggling with the impact of drug and alcohol abuse or other addiction.
Couples/Families searching for the way forward.
Persons & families of incarceration;
Persons in employment limbo;

In Treatment: Chris Keller, Gary Kline, Katie Ryan, Linda (Kay Miller's sis)

Hospice/Palliative Care: Elmer Flory, Judy Keller, Mabel Lamp, Henry Wiskus

Armed Services: Thomas Brown (Seydel's son-in-law), Sean Hannes, Kyle Marchik, Corey Ormsby

LIGHTING THE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CANDLES

are the following families:

Dec. 6 Travis & Camille Person

Dec. 13 Josh & Alisha Hubler

Dec. 20 Shayne Lanning

Dec. 24 (3;30) Adam & Amy Calendar

Dec. 24 (10:00) Adam & Katie Rippentrop



December Sunday Servants

Liturgists Twyla Hein - Coordinator

- 13 – Lorna Muller
- 20 – Larry Glick
- 24th (3:30) Dusty Johnson
- 24th (10 pm) Kris Clark
- 27 – Kris Clark

Power Point Becky Young - Coordinator

- 6 – Brian Heil (both)
- 13 – Trina Hill (both)
- 20 – Alec Heil (both)
- 27 – Comstock Family (both)

Fellowship Coffee Barb R. & Dixie M.-Coordinator

- 6 – Larry & Kathy Houstman, Glenda & Bob Holets
- 13 – Ron & Lois Salmonson, Deb Eisele, Dawn Spickerman
- 20 – Heil Family
- 27 – Rick & Judy Rouse

Greeters Becky Young - Coordinator

- 6 – Heather Strefling & Karen Strefling
- 13 – Chris & Kiley Schultz Family
- 20 – Jan & Gordon Esbeck
- 24 – 3:30 Service: Dusty Johnson Family
- 24 – 10:00 Service: Kent & Carmen Hoffman
- 27 – Rich & Kiaya Rickard-Urban

Nursery Office - Coordinator

- 6 – Deanna & Steven Licht
- 13 – Rhonda Waugh
- 20 – Jen'Nifer & Zoe Comstock
- 24 – 3:30 Service: Pat Fankhauser
- 27 – VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Children's Lesson Office - Coordinator

- 13 – Dusty Johnson
- 20 – Gail Fleming
- 27 – Greta Bierman

Ushers Lorna Muller - Coordinator

- 6 – Bob & Ginny Cummins, Renee & Murry Mente
- 13 – Ron & Lois Salmonson, Ken & Lorna Muller
- 20 – Bob & Barb Rickard
- 24 –
- 27 – Ron & Lois Salmonson & Larry & Berrie Glick

Flowers Becky Young - Coordinator

- 6 –
- 13 –
- 20 –
- 27 –

Communion Stewards Donna Gault - Coordinator

- 6 – Judy Rouse

Acolytes Kim Walter - Coordinator

- 6 – Caden & Hanna Schmidt
- 13 – Davis Webb & Nicholas Eicher
- 20 – Margaret O'Leary & Ava Boldt
- 27 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Presence & Gifts from Oct.

Worship Attendance: 4–98, 11–118, 18–120, 25–137

Average: 118

Sunday School Attendance: 4–68, 11–89, 18–70, 25–87

Average: 76

General Fund: \$11,523.00, Upper Room \$4.00, Apportionments \$160.00, College Connections \$25.00, GIG Books \$122.00, Shared Blessings \$27.00, LFP Purchase \$886.00, Copper Kettle \$218.00, Missions-Soup Luncheon \$424.00, Blanket Sunday \$507.00, **Grand Total** \$13,896.00



So many leaves; so little time!

The 4th, 5th and 6th grade Sunday school class raked leaves in the front of the church.

*A grateful heart is one that finds
the countless blessings of God in
the seemingly mundane
everyday life.*

–Anonymous

Wednesday, December 2

1:00 pm GIG
5:30 pm Youth Group
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Leadership Council

Thursday, December 3

9:00 am Pastor @ Consortium
10:00 am GIG
6:30 pm Trustees Meeting

Friday, December 4

6:00 pm To 9:30 pm Parents
Night Out/Kids Night In

Saturday, December 5

Youth Fundraiser @ Heartland

Monday, December 7

6:30 pm Creative Worship

Sunday, December 6

8:30 am Choir Kids
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
3:30 pm Junior Lego League

Tuesday, December 8,

4:00 pm Communion @ Prairie
Hills

Wednesday, December 9

1:00 pm GIG
1:30 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 10

9:30 am Communion @ Cedar
Manor
10:00 am GIG
6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 5302
6:30 pm Chaos Practice

Saturday, December 12

11:00 am Shared Blessings
Meal
5:30 pm Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 13

8:30 am Choir Kids
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
2:30 pm KFC
6:00 pm Dominoes

Monday, December 14

3:50 pm LFP Board Meeting
6:30 pm Chaos Practice
6:45 pm Mission's Mtg

Wednesday, December 16
Newsletter Articles Due

1:00 pm GIG
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice
8:00 pm Abigail Circle

Thursday, December 17

10:00 am GIG
7:00 pm Priscilla Circle

Friday, December 18

1:30 pm Mary Martha

Sunday, December 20

8:30 am Choir Kids
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am **Worship/Sunday
School Christmas Program**
2:00 pm Service Of Long
Shadows
5:00 pm Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 22

2:00 pm Prairie Hills Program
1st Service Of Christmas

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 am Meeting Of The Holy
Folders
1:00 pm GIG
1:30 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Office Closed

3:30 pm Family Service Of
Christmas
10:00 pm Traditional Service
Of Christmas

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

Office Closed

**Pastor On Vacation until
January 1st**

Sunday, December 27

9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

Wednesday, December 30

1:00 pm GIG
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Office Closed



